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THE RED CROSS



IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.,

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

FIRST AID DETACHMENTS

It will be a source of great satisfaction to the nurses at large, and to our Red Cross nurses especially, to know that the tentative plan for the organization of detachments of women under the First-Aid Department of the Red Cross, which grew out of the interests and enthusiasm aroused by the International Red Cross Conference, has been abandoned. The December JOURNAL states editorially "we do not doubt the good intentions of those responsible for this idea." There was no intention or purpose on the part of the officers of the Red Cross, or the First-Aid Department, to disregard the Nursing Service. It seemed evident, however, to the Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service that in this country such an independent organization of women would have been detrimental to the nursing service, already well established, and not only lead to confusion and misunderstandings but be a source of real danger to the public.

The subject was discussed at a joint meeting of our three national organizations, and a special meeting of the National Committee was called in New York, November 14, 1912, to make recommendations for some modification of the proposed plan. Members of the National Committee expressed their unqualified approval of, and their willingness to co-operate in the organization of classes of women for instruction in first-aid, home nursing and allied subjects which will aid them in the home care of their own families and prepare them to render emergency assistance in case of accidents.

In accordance with further recommendations made by the National Committee it has been decided: First: That the organization of classes for women, except in first-aid, shall be placed under the direction of the Nursing Service of the Red Cross. Second: That independent detachments of women shall not be organized by the Red Cross. Third: That no uniform for women other than nurses shall be authorized by the Red Cross. Fourth: That should it be desirable, either in time of war or calamity, to utilize a volunteer service of women for rest stations, distribution of supplies, or any other form of relief work, that such volunteers shall be under the direction of the Red Cross Nursing Service. Further details in regard to these classes for women will be given later.

RURAL NURSING

At a recent meeting of the National Relief Board the following Committee on Rural Nursing was appointed: Mabel T. Boardman, Lillian D. Wald, Annie W. Goodrich, Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, Jane A. Delano, Mrs. William K. Draper, John M. Glenn, Wickliffe Rose, Dr. Winford H. Smith.

Fannie F. Clement, of Roxbury, Mass., has been appointed Superintendent of Rural Nurses and will have her headquarters in Washington, with an office adjoining that of the Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service. Miss Clement seems pre-eminently fitted by training and experience for the organization of this new work. She is a native of Massachusetts and was graduated from Smith College in 1903. Her hospital training was received at the Boston City and the Boston Lying-in Hospitals. During several years of private nursing she devoted part of the time to district work. She was eight months in the Social Service Department of the Boston Dispensary, in the tuberculosis clinic, and has recently completed a course at the School for Social Workers in Boston.

As we are most anxious to bring this rural work before the nurses, and our space in the JOURNAL being limited, the account of the annual meeting of the Red Cross will be deferred until next month.

At a meeting held in New York, in 1908, in the interest of the Day Camp for tuberculosis, Lillian D. Wald suggested an even greater work within the scope of a national organization like the American Red Cross: namely, systematic country nursing to cover the fields not reached by city nursing organizations. She spoke of the great need of such service in the United States, as there are but few opportunities for country dwellers to obtain nursing care in case of sickness, opportunities that exist for the people of Great Britain and Canada by virtue of an extensively organized service of nursing.

The American Red Cross has recently established a Rural Nursing Service with a view to covering this field. It is to be concerned with nursing the sick in rural communities, carrying instruction along sanitary and humanitarian lines into the homes, and dealing with environment in a way to improve living conditions. It hopes to co-operate with all existing organizations relating to questions of individual and public health, and the many organizations which, in the final analysis, have a common object in view.

The unlimited opportunities for humanitarian and educational work to be found in rural communities will appeal to nurses who understand and enjoy country life and people and who are interested in public health movements and social work. To insure a high standard, rural nurses

in general must meet the requirements of the Red Cross for enrollment and must have had, in addition, training or experience in a visiting nursing organization or some other form of social service.

The Red Cross will meet the expenses of organization and general supervision of the work. The salary of the nurses will be disbursed by the Red Cross, but before a nurse is assigned to any community it is expected that it place in the hands of the Red Cross, in such terms as may be agreed upon, the amount of the nurse's salary. The minimum salary that a nurse shall receive is fixed by the Red Cross, and an annual increase of \$60 a year for five years will be recommended to insure efficiency and permanency of staff. Special financial recognition will be given nurses who have had particular advantages in training or experience, such as the post-graduate course at Teachers' College, or other courses that seem to afford similar advantages. For nurses who have not had special advantages in training or experience, arrangements have been made with certain visiting nursing associations to accept them as students for a four months' course. Realizing the necessity of this training, a small loan fund has been provided by the Red Cross and it is expected that a limited number of scholarships will be available which will make it easier for nurses to avail themselves of this opportunity.

In order to maintain a uniform standard of nursing, all Red Cross Rural Nurses will be under the general direction and supervision of the Superintendent, with the aid of such assistants as may be necessary. This will not, however, interfere with their responsibility to local committees or organizations representing the Red Cross in their community under which their local work will be conducted.

For rural communities already alive to the advantages of visiting nursing, which are looking for a nurse, for those which realize the advantages but need advice as to ways and means for support of a nurse, and for those regions where it will doubtless appear necessary to demonstrate more fully the need of one, the Red Cross Rural Nursing Service stands ready to furnish all possible assistance.

Circulars giving general information about the work, its scope, aim and requirements, have been prepared and it is hoped that the opportunities of this new work will appeal to visiting nurses throughout the country, to enrolled nurses, to private duty nurses who look for a broader field of activity, and to undergraduates whose choice has not yet been made. Additional information concerning the Rural Nursing Service will gladly be forwarded upon request to the Superintendent. Applications for rural work under the Red Cross should also be sent to MISS FANNIE F. CLEMENT, Superintendent, American Red Cross Rural Nursing Service, 713 Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.